

# THE YANCEY JOURNAL

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Photo by Brian Westveer

### Tax On Telephone Bills Will Drop In January

Burnsville, North Carolina, December 1976--Good news for New Year's--local telephone users will have some extra money thanks to a drop in the federal excise tax on telephone bills from 6 per cent to 5 per cent January 1, the Westco Telephone Company announced today.

Telephone customers in 1977 will save approximately \$275 million at the lower rate, compared to what they would have paid had the tax remained at 6 per cent, according to estimates by the U.S. Independent Telephone Association. Some \$51 million of that amount will be saved by customers of the independent telephone companies.

The association represents the nation's 1,600 non-Bell System telephone companies

servicing almost 28 million phones--one out of every five in the nation.

Congress first imposed the tax on telephone bills during World War I as a "temporary measure". Although repealed briefly after the war, it was reinstated during the Depression and at one time rates were as high as 25 per cent on long distance calls and 15 per cent on local service.

Several years ago Congress acted to eliminate the tax, which stood at 10 per cent for almost 20 years. Now the rate drops 1 per cent each year until it is eliminated in 1982.

The tax has cost consumers billions of dollars and the Independent Telephone Association estimates the U.S. Treasury will receive almost

\$2 billion from the levy in 1977.

On behalf of its customers the telephone industry fought the tax, calling it regressive and citing the unfairness of taxing a basic necessity--especially for the poor and elderly.

### Mars Hill Expands CEP

Mars Hill College's Continuing Education Program (CEP) will expand its course offerings in Burnsville beginning in January. Six courses will be offered in three major areas as well as basic classes required for a degree.

Started in 1974, the CEP is [Cont'd on page 2]

### \$10,000 Raised

A Benefit Gospel Sing was held last Sunday, December 19, for Lisa Haney, who was seriously injured in the recent Yancey school bus accident. When the evening was over, more than seven thousand dollars had been raised for Lisa. The North Carolina Radio Patrol had already raised some two thousand dollars, and with what other agencies have collected the total sum will be well over ten thousand dollars raised.

### Crooked Pine Means Harmony

If one word could explain what Crooked Pine is about, it would be harmony.

Crooked Pine stands for three young musicians who formed themselves into a string band playing old time music, music that reaches back into the Appalachian Mountains as far as anyone can go, then reaches back further into the mountains of Scotland and Ireland where the roots began. The traditional Appalachian music of the Crooked Pine String Band features fiddle tunes, ballads, dance tunes, traditional Irish music, and a number of more recently composed songs and folk tales from the Southern Highlands. Also appearing with the Crooked Pine String Band is Mary Hicks, a performer, choreographer and teacher of Modern dance.

The Crooked Pine String Band-Dance Concert scheduled for Saturday evening, January 8, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. in the Harris High School Auditorium in Spruce Pine promises an evening of refreshing Appalachian music and dance. This concert is sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council of Mitchell and Yancey County. Admission is 50¢ for children; adult tickets are \$2.50 if purchased prior to the performance or \$3.00 at the door. These tickets may be purchased from any Toe River Arts Council Special Projects Committee Member: Susan Larson, Theresa Coletta, Anita Fox, Rosalind Weaver, Susan Helps, Patti McCall, Vohamie Johnson, Elaine Reed, Dona Shore, and Sandy Wiseman. For more information contact Susan Larson at 765-2652 or Theresa Coletta at 682-2282.



### Christmas Dinner For Senior Citizens

The annual Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens was held at the nutrition feeding sight on Friday, December 17, where hot lunches and workshops are held weekly. Anyone over 60 is eligible for free lunch. Our special thanks to Izzie Cannon for an outstanding job, and to all the other merchants who

donated, which without their support we could not have had such a successful party. Birthdays were celebrated by Julia Boone, Pearl Renfro and Mildred Gilley. Approximately 150 people attended and a good time was had by all.

### School Board Schedules Meetings

The Yancey County Board of Education met on Monday night, December 13, for an organizational session. The Board elected Kenneth Hunter to serve as its chairman, and voted to continue to hold its regular monthly meeting on the first Monday night of each month. The meeting time was changed from 7:30 to 7:00 o'clock. State law requires local boards of education to meet four times each year or more often if

necessary. The Board feels that monthly meetings are necessary in order to deal with the many varied, and often complex problems of the school system.

The present Board members are Jerome R. Burns and Charles B. Gillespie, Jr. who have served two years of a four-year term and Garrett Anglin, Kenneth Hunter and Thomas Robinson who are beginning a four-year term on the Board.

### American Thread Submits UF Check

Wade Bowman, Industrial Relations Manager for the American Thread Company - Sevier Plant, has submitted to the Yancey County United Fund a check in the amount of \$585.88 from the company and its employees living in the Yancey County Area.

The Company received a total pledge for the 1976-77 year of approximately \$9,000, and as in years past, American Thread has made a company contribution based

on the number of employees from the four-county area of McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey and Avery counties.

The Fund Drive was very successful and the employees' interest and support of the United Fund Campaign is to be commended.

The American Thread Company and its employees from Yancey County area are glad to accept their responsibility in the United Fund program.

### Traffic Safety News

Dr. Billy Graham (center), world renown evangelist, discusses a script for a traffic safety commercial with Bob Campbell (right), Information Services Director for the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Jimmy Morris, Director of Communications, North Carolina Baptist State Convention. The action took place in Raleigh during the production of public service highway safety announcements, featuring Dr. Graham, a long time advocate of highway safety. The TV and radio announcements, promoting the 55 mile per hour speed limit, were produced in cooperation with the N.C. Baptist State Convention and are being distributed to 16 North Carolina TV stations and some 250 radio stations across the state.

NCDOT photo by C.E. Jones



### New MTI Facility Ready

From the appearance of things on Tuesday, December 14, when the above picture was taken, it wouldn't seem possible that Mayland Technical Institute was ready to begin classes in its new facility. However, Dr. O.M. Blake, President, says everything is "go" for January 3, 1977. All students will register on that date at the new campus, located at the Mitchell-Avery County line on Hwy. 19-E. Much furniture and equipment will not be in their final place on January 3; however, the institution expects this to be only a minor inconvenience and will proceed with registration and begin classes on January 4.

All curriculum programs will be located on the new campus except Auto/Diesel Mechanics, Cosmetology, and Light Construction. These programs will remain in Spruce Pine in their present facilities. Students registering for these programs will do so at the new campus.

Open house for the new campus and facilities will be held when all furniture and equipment are in place and landscaping is complete. Even before open house, everyone is cordially invited to drop by the new campus and facilities for a visit. Students, faculty, and staff are looking forward to occupying the new campus and facilities.